



5400 Washington Street
Denver, CO 80216

303-455-2700 office
866-346-1736 toll free
303-455-2807 fax

CREA.COOP



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the state of Colorado contains thousands of acres of land administered under the authority of the Bureau of Land Management, (BLM), a federal agency with headquarters in Washington, DC;

Whereas, over ninety percent of the land administered under the authority of the BLM is situated west of the Mississippi River;

Whereas, the member cooperatives of Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) frequently interact with the BLM concerning issues that have a material impact on the affordability and reliability of electric energy supplied to cooperative consumers;

Whereas, the member cooperatives of CREA would be better served if the BLM's headquarters was in the state of Colorado, closer to the land it administers and the people impacted by its decisions;

Whereas, the city of Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado, is centrally located in the western United States, on the Western Slope of the Rocky Mountains, more easily accessible to BLM lands, with access available by Interstate highway and regional airport.

Whereas, the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County Colorado, and surrounding counties and cities on Colorado's Western Slope are facing growing economic challenges, recently magnified due to the decline in the market for coal produced in the region, closure of several coal mines, and the impending closure of coal-fired electric generation stations; and

Whereas, the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County Colorado, and surrounding counties and cities on Colorado's Western Slope would benefit economically if The BLM headquarters was moved to Grand Junction, with new jobs and commerce that would aid the economic recovery of the region;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Colorado Rural Electric Association endorses and supports the relocation of the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado.

WITNESS

In Witness Whereof, as secretary of the Colorado Rural Electric Association I affirm that this resolution was adopted at the April 28, 2017 regular meeting of the board of directors.

Jeff Hauck, Secretary



March 2017

Club 20 Supports Efforts to Relocate BLM to Western Colorado or the Western United States

CLUB 20 is a bi-partisan coalition of individuals, businesses, and local governments tasked with promoting and protecting Western Colorado and advocating on issues at the state and federal levels. Covering all 22 of Colorado’s Western counties and speaking on behalf of more than 1000 members, CLUB 20 is the voice of the Western Slope and has been for more than 64 years.

CLUB 20 supports efforts to relocate the national BLM office to the Western United States and, more specifically, to Western Colorado for the following reasons:

- The State of Colorado is home to approximately 36% of its land base in federal ownership, and Western Colorado is home to approximately 18.6 million acres of federally managed lands representing approximately 70% of the total land mass.
- Public lands are owned by ALL citizens and the management of these lands directly impacts surrounding communities which rely on the access to those adjacent public lands to stimulate their economy and serve their recreational needs
- Many residents in the West are becoming more concerned about what they feel is excessive federal influence over their lives and economies, and argue that the federal government should divest itself of much of its federal holdings.
- CLUB 20 has seen the difficulties in managing federal lands from an administrative office across the country and such efforts have resulted in a lack of understanding of Western issues and gross neglect for local input.
- Unfortunately, our region has seen time and again these one size fits all regulations coming out of Washington, DC which do not take into consideration the unique conditions that exist on a county and regional level.
- CLUB 20 members and elected officials expend considerable resources working with the BLM responding to, contributing to, reviewing and helping to implement federal land management plans which often result in expensive travel to Washington, DC to have their thoughts and concerns heard.
- The only means for balancing these difficult land management decisions is for strong local input so that people in each community can help determine the best use for public lands in their area.
- Several prominent congressional committee chairmen have been discussing legislation which would allow states to assume ownership of BLM lands within their states allowing the states to manage those lands and keep the revenue the lands generate. This frustration with the management of federal lands has boiled over in numerous states which damages working relationships and has ultimately cost the unnecessary loss of life.
- Relocating the national BLM office to the Western United States will help ease some of the tension that has been building for years. It will show Westerners BLM’s true commitment to hearing and interacting with those most impacted by BLM lands.

- Several Western States, including Colorado, were treated differently than other states when admitted to the Union, because the federal government reserves ownership of unappropriated lands, where other states were allowed state ownership of such lands, thus creating an unequal situation which continues to create problems because some are “public land states” and others are not.
- Decentralization of the BLM will create expanded job opportunities for the Western US and Western Colorado and those making critical decisions on the management and regulation of these lands will be those who live in the communities surrounded by them. Specifically, CLUB 20 would like to see the office moved to Grand Junction or Durango, CO as these locations are centrally located, have great access to key transportation routes, have easy access to federal district court in Denver, and are surrounded by a highly qualified workforce.
- CLUB 20 strongly supports decentralizing the BLM and moving its national office to the Western United States because the people who manage public lands ought to live and work near the communities whose economies their decisions affect.

It is for these reasons that we write to you to urge you to relocate the national BLM office to the Western United States and, more specifically, to Western Colorado. Our lands are the heart and soul of our communities and critical decisions on how to regulate and manage these lands should come from the people who live, work, and recreate on them and have done so for centuries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christian Reece". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christian Reece
Executive Director



May 18, 2017

Senator Cory Gardner
Grand Junction Office
400 Rood Ave., Suite 220
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing 950 small businesses employing over 37,000 people, I am writing to let you know we support your bill to move the Bureau of Land Management Headquarters from Washington, D.C. to the Western United States. It will come as no surprise to you that we want to see the headquarters located in Mesa County and will work diligently to plead our case once the bill passes and is signed by President Trump.

We applaud your “thinking outside the box” and seeing the benefit of moving up to 400 key decision makers in the BLM closer to the lands they manage. It will provide a clearer vision for them of how their decisions impact the lands of the West and offer cost savings in terms of overhead costs such as office space, employee travel and employee housing costs.

In Grand Junction, the influx of 400 jobs would have significant positive impact on our economy. Beyond that, it will allow those who live close to these lands and often times are most impacted, greater access to BLM officials.

Please let us know how we can help you move this bill through Congress.

Sincerely,

Diane Schwenke
President/CEO



May 16, 2017

Senator Cory Gardner
Grand Junction Office
400 Rood Ave., Suite 220
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Senator Gardner;

On behalf of the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing 350 small businesses employing over 10,000 people, I am writing to let you know we support your bill to move the Bureau of Land Management Headquarters from Washington, D.C. to the Western United States. It will come as no surprise to you that we want to see the headquarters located in Mesa County and will work diligently to plead our case once the bill passes and is signed by President Trump.

We applaud your “thinking outside the box” and seeing the benefit of moving up to 400 key decision makers in the BLM closer to the lands they manage. It will provide a clearer vision for them of how their decisions impact the lands of the West and offer cost savings in terms of overhead costs such as office space, employee travel and employee housing costs.

In Mesa County, the influx of 400 jobs would have significant positive impact on our economy. Beyond that, it will allow those who live close to these lands and often times are most impacted, greater access to BLM officials.

Please let us know how we can help you move this bill through Congress.

Sincerely,

Frank Ladd
President/CEO
Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce



Colorado Farm Bureau

9177 East Mineral Circle
Centennial, CO 80112
www.coloradofarmbureau.com

April 13, 2017

The Honorable Cory Gardner
U.S. Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of the nearly 25,000 members of the Colorado Farm Bureau (CFB) we echo your March 7, 2017 comments on relocating the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices to the west, specifically Grand Junction. Many of our farmer and rancher members utilize grazing on public land, managed by the BLM, as an integral component of their business. Preserving this valuable natural resource requires cooperation and benefits from the knowledge carried by the generations of ranchers who have managed that resource.

Locating the BLM headquarters in the west would send a clear message by Congress and the Administration that it is important for federal officials to be in touch with the areas that are affected by their decisions. We feel this will create needed reforms to federal regulations that have been driven by beltway bureaucrats who don't see firsthand the impacts of overburdensome rulemaking. This move could result in a more cooperative approach between ranchers, energy development, recreation and environmental benefits that advance when a multiple use concept is applied to federal lands. We feel strongly that a move could end the delays in decision making that are driving up the cost of doing business and resulting in unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles.

We too firmly believe Colorado state and local leaders and local users should have a strong voice on local land management decisions. It is our hope that a move such as this can result in a fresh regulatory and legal climate that will spur the use of our natural resources, provide taxpayers a better return on their investment, and allow agriculture and other natural resource industries to create jobs and economic growth. Farmers and ranchers care deeply about the future administration of federal lands and relocation of BLM offices amongst the federal lands they are charged to manage is a good start.

If you would require any additional information our staff stands ready to assist you and your office in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald J. Shawcroft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Shawcroft, President

Cc: The Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
The Honorable Michael Bennett, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources

WHEREAS, Bureau of Land Management policy impact at the local level is generally of greater magnitude than impact on a national level, so that the local impact should receive greater consideration;

WHEREAS, each of the identified programs and management concerns directly impact the people who live, work, recreate and otherwise rely on the availability and care of the Bureau of Land Management-managed land;

WHEREAS, the local impact of any given Bureau of Land Management policy may well be different from state to state, and even from Bureau of Land Management field office to Bureau of Land Management field office;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management recognizes that “[t]he American public values balanced use, conservation, environmental management, recreation, and tourism. Public lands are increasingly viewed from the perspective of the recreational opportunities they offer, their cultural resources, and--in an increasingly urban world--their vast open spaces. However, against this backdrop, the more traditional land uses of grazing, timber production, and mining are still in high demand.”

WHEREAS, these identified values are best served by familiarity with the land and activities, which familiarity cannot be achieved at great distance;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management is headquartered in Washington, D.C., with a workforce of some 3,000 employees, with approximately 600 employees at the headquarters and the remainder dispersed primarily across the western United States;

WHEREAS, the highest-level Bureau of Land Management employees are located in Washington D.C., far from the land and people directly impacted by Bureau of Land Management policy and agency-wide decisions;

WHEREAS, because the highest-level Bureau of Land Management employees and support staff are located in Washington D.C., Bureau of Land Management policy and agency-wide decisions are made in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, the local impacts and the variety of impacts are not sufficiently considered in the policy development process;

WHEREAS, the local impacts and the variety of impacts are not sufficiently considered in the agency-wide decision-making process;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management recognizes that, “[w]orking together, all of us can succeed in restoring and maintaining the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

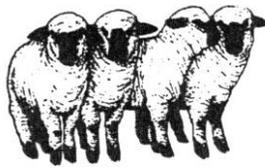
WHEREAS, United States Senator Cory Gardner has called for relocating the Bureau of Land Management headquarters from Washington to the West, and in particular, to Colorado;

WHEREAS, relocation of the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to the lands it manages would place the highest-level employees and support staff in close proximity of the lands managed;

WHEREAS, such proximity of the employees with policy-making and final decision-making duties and authority to the lands and citizens affected would provide those employees, and support staff with greater opportunity to understand the lands, users, issues and impacts of policies and decisions;

WHEREAS, such proximity of the highest-level employees would afford the employees with better opportunities to understand the stakeholder lawful activities on the land such as mining, agriculture, energy development, recreation, and conservation;

WHEREAS, a western United States headquarters would provide better access by citizens and users to the policy and decision-making process;



Colorado Wool Growers Association

*PO Box 292 ° Delta, CO 81416-0292 (970) 874-1433 ° (970) 874-4170 fax
cwga@wool@aol.com ° coloradosheep.org*

The Honorable Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Philip_newman@gardner.senate.gov

April 20, 2017

Dear Senator Gardner:

The Colorado Wool Growers Association would like to express our support for your efforts to move the BLM headquarters from Washington, DC to Grand Junction, Colorado.

The BLM manages more than 8.3 million acres in our state, and over 245 million acres total with the vast majority of those lands located in the western United States. The BLM has a tremendous economic impact on our local economies and the federal budget (the wild horse program is just one example).

While there would be upfront costs in moving the office, there would be a long-term savings by maintaining an office in the West. The move would provide much greater accessibility for staff and stakeholders to interact. It would also create improved oversight with key BLM officials located close to the lands they manage, so they can have first-hand knowledge of issues and the resource base they are charged with taking care of.

With the vast amount of land and the complexities of multiple-use issues that the BLM must address, moving the BLM headquarters would be an efficient step towards improved management for this agency.

Sincerely,

Angela Theos

President



311 N. Henson St. Lake City, Colorado 81235 970-944-2225 www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us

April 5, 2017

To: Congressional Delegation

**Re: Hinsdale County, Colorado, Supports Re-Location Efforts
of the National BLM Office to Colorado**

Hinsdale County Colorado lies in southwest Colorado in the very heart of the San Juan Mountain range. We can be proud of our claim to fame as the most remote county in the entire lower 48 states. In addition to being the most remote, Hinsdale County is also 96% federally owned, offering visitors a taste of the Rocky Mountains in its purest form on all levels of recreation and living. With that being said, our very existence and the heart of our economy is impacted by Federal Lands.

As conveyed in our mission statement; “It is the mission of Hinsdale County, its community and leaders to work together in preserving the rich history, character and legacies of the past while continually looking forward to the future and seeking new opportunities.” Our mission requires a solid working relationship with federal land entities and a clear understanding of the challenges we face. It couldn’t be more important to have the national BLM office in Colorado which is centrally located in the heart of the American West. Our surrounding counties, also rich in federal lands, face many of the same challenges as Hinsdale with our federal lands.

It is said one can’t really understand an area unless one resides there and understanding western issues is paramount to the understanding and proper management of the areas federal lands. The relocation of the National BLM office would be an incredible benefit to management and operations, a voice to the counties and communities alike and provide multiple levels of positive economic impact through jobs in the region.

Hinsdale County Colorado welcomes and supports the relocation effort of the National BLM office to Colorado.

Sincerely,

The Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners

Stan Whinnery
Chair

Cindy Dozier

Susan Thompson



County Commissioners:

Larry Don Suckla
James Lambert
Keenan G. Ertel

County Administrator:

Melissa A. Brunner

Board of County Commissioners

109 West Main, Room 302
Cortez, CO 81321
(970) 565-8317
(970) 565-3420 Fax

April 3, 2017

Senator Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office
Washington DC. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner;

The Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners enthusiastically supports efforts to relocate the Bureau of Land management (BLM) National Headquarters to one of our western states.

Any state west of the Mississippi is a step in the right direction, but we are particularly supportive of locating the BLM Headquarters in Grand Junction Colorado. Grand Junction is an ideal location as it is centrally located and has excellent access via the Grand Junction International Airport, as well as I- 70.

Geographically Grand Junction is located on the Western Slope of the Colorado Rockies between Denver and Salt Lake City. Situated on the banks of the Colorado River (largely managed by the BLM), Grand Junction is a medium sized town which serves as the gateway to the heart of BLM Country.

Relocating the BLM to Grand Junction makes good strategic sense. Grand Junction provides a direct connection to the Rural Western culture and economy. By locating the BLM Head quarters in the heart of the landscape they are assigned to manage it will help ease some of the tension and trust issues that has been building for years.

Many western residents are concerned about the difficulties in working with the BLM and an agency culture that does not seem to understand or values rural western culture or economy. The balancing act demanded by The Federal Lands Policy Act's (FLPMA) multiple resource management objective is getting more difficult to achieve all of the time. The BLM needs to be solidly grounded in the culture and tradition of the landscape they are charged with managing.

The Federal Lands Policy Act provides the direction by which BLM is supposed to coordinate with local governments through planning efforts. This has been an area of significant discord between the BLM

and many western communities. BLM is beginning to acknowledge its responsibility to Local Governments under FLPMA. Relocating the BLM headquarters to the west would help to facilitate coordination with local governments in the way that FLPMA intended.

Moving the BLM Headquarters to the Western United States will demonstrate BLM's commitment to the people living amongst these lands that they will listen and work with local residents. Furthermore Decentralization of the BLM will create expanded job opportunities for the Western US and Western Colorado which are some of the most rural and economically challenged regions in the US.

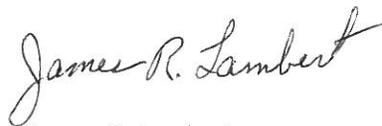
Relocating the BLM Headquarters to the Western United State would also be a great benefit to Native American's whom tribal lands often border BLM. Understanding and developing relationships with our Native American Community cannot be done from an office in Washington. By living and working with the people who are most impacted by BLM decisions, those making critical decisions on the management and regulation of these lands will also be those who live, work and recreate in the communities surrounded by them.

It is for these reasons that we write to you to urge you to relocate the national BLM office to the Western United States and, more specifically, to Western Colorado. Our lands are the heart and soul of our communities and critical decisions on how to regulate and manage these lands should come from the people who live, work, and recreate on them and have done so for centuries.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Larry Don Suckla



James R. Lambert



Keenan G. Ertel

Cc. Senator Michael Bennet
Congressman Scott Tipton
Department of the Interior, Secretary Zinke